

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8 amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification and drawings were objected; Claims 1-10 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection, set forth in this Office Action.

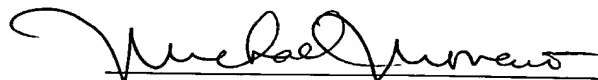
Claim 1 is amended as suggested in the Official Action. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are further amended to remove indicia. Claims 7-8 are amended to comply with 37 C.F.R § 1.75(c). No new matter is added.

Regarding comments in the Official Action regarding the priority document, Applicant notes that the priority document was filed on August 22, 2001. A copy of papers previously filed along with the original filing receipt is attached hereto.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
EHK/MEMO/kkn

I:\ATTY\MM\AMENDMENT\1219\213112.AM DUE FEB. 28..DOC

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-2, labeling them as “Prior Art”, and all blocks are now labeled.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (3)